



## Blue and Gray in the Bluegrass

Kentucky's preserved Civil War landscape brings to life one of the most crucial chapters in U.S. history – one in which the neutral Commonwealth played a pivotal role. The war divided Kentucky more tragically than any other state, pitting brother against brother and bestowing two Kentuckians – President Abraham Lincoln and Jefferson Davis, President of the Confederate States – with the decision-making powers on behalf of both warring sides.

[Kentucky's Civil War Heritage Guide](#) details 34 points of Civil War interest within Kentucky, conveniently arranged by four geographic regions. Each region highlights preserved and interpreted landmarks, including battlefields, museums, parks, cemeteries and monuments.

Kentucky's Civil War standouts include the [Perryville Battlefield State Historic Site](#), home to Kentucky's largest and most severe Civil War engagement, which cost the lives of 4,211 Union soldiers and 3,396 Confederate soldiers. While many Civil War battlefields have yielded to development over the years, the Perryville battlefield remains unspoiled, much as it would have appeared to its original combatants. In October of this year, the [Battle of Perryville reenactment](#) will play host to the 2006 National Civil War Reenactment.

President Abraham Lincoln is reported to have once said, "I hope to have God on my side, but I must have Kentucky." Visitors to Hodgenville, Kentucky can view the one-room log cabin where [Lincoln was born](#), as well as his [boyhood home at Knob Creek](#) and a [Lincoln Museum](#). The birthplace of Lincoln's opponent is commemorated at the [Jefferson Davis Monument State Historic Site](#) in Fairview; and the first historic site restored in honor of a First Lady can be toured at the [Mary Todd Lincoln House](#) in Lexington.

Fascinating chapters in African-American Civil War history unfold at [Camp Nelson Heritage Park](#) and the [National Underground Railroad Museum](#). Camp Nelson was the site of the third largest recruiting and training depot for African Americans during the Civil War and is reputed to have the best-preserved Union Army supply depot in the nation. The fascinating and poignant history of the path to freedom that led thousands of slaves from the South's bondage unfolds at the National Underground Railroad Museum in Maysville, an area surrounded by Underground Railroad stations.

It is scarcely an exaggeration to say that the Confederacy would have won the war if it could have gained Kentucky, and, conversely, that the Union's success in retaining Kentucky as a base for invasions of the Confederate heartland brought eventual Union victory. Visit [www.kentuckytourism.com](http://www.kentuckytourism.com) to learn more about Kentucky's civil war heritage, as well as the myriad of other unique and exciting opportunities that await you in the Bluegrass State.

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Kentucky Department of Tourism, 500 Mero St., 22nd Floor, Frankfort, Ky 40601